

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ACDE-00 /026 W

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FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3253

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 9139

EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: JOHNSON/SEMENOV LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 16, 1976

(SALT TWO-1156)

REF: STATE 281068

1. AFTER LUNCHEON TODAY BY SEMONOV FOR MRS. JOHNSON AND ME, TALKING FROM PREPARED NOTES, SEMENOV QUESTIONED ME AT GREAT LENGTH ON BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR OUR PROPOSING RECESS AT THIS TIME, REFERRING TO TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HOPED THAT THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION "WILL CONTINUE PUSHING FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT." I SAID THAT I WAS IN NO WAY ABLE TO SPEAK FOR THE FUTURE ADMINISTRATION, BUT THAT I WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND I PLAN THERE, TOGETHER WITH MY DELEGATION, TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO HELP PREPARE TRANSITION TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. I FELT CONFIDENT AND THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SHOULD FEEL CONFIDENT, ON THE BASIS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S

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PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THAT THE FUTURE ADMINISTRATION WOULD

DO ALL POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE AND CARRY FORWARD THE WORK ON SALT, AND THAT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PRESENT SESSION HERE IN GENEVA I WAS PREPARED AND HOPED TO DO EVERYTHING I COULD TO MOVE THINGS FORWARD BEFORE WE RECESSED. TO THIS END I HAD PROPOSED PLENARY MEETINGS ON BOTH WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AND, IF HE DESIRED, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO HAVE PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH HIM ON THURSDAY AND SATURDAY. I SAID IT WAS NOT OUR INTENT TO TREAT THIS RECESS IN ANY DRAMATIC FASHION AND IT WAS MY PROPOSAL THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BE IN AS ROUTINE A MANNER AS POSSIBLE. I SAID THAT I WAS SURE WASHINGTON ALSO HAD THE SAME VIEW AND, THEREFORE, WANTED TO APPROVE WHATEVER PRESS RELEASE WE MADE ON SUBJECT HERE. I THEN SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT CHECKED TEXT WITH WASHINGTON, MY PROPOSAL WAS THAT FOLLOWING USUAL STATEMENT REPORTING FACTS OF FRIDAY'S MEETING, WE WOULD CLOSE WITH SENTENCE READING: "THE DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA WOULD BE DETERMINED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS." HE SAID HE DID NOT YET HAVE ANY INSTRUCTIONS AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME WHENEVER HE DID.

2. I THEN MADE STATEMENT TO HIM ON HEAVY BOMBERS ALONG LINES REFTEL. I SAID THAT THIS WAS RELATED TO STATEMENT THAT I WOULD MAKE TOMORROW ON DATA BASE, BUT AS BOMBER NUMBER MATTER HAD ONLY BEEN SUBJECT OF PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN US I WOULD MAKE NO REFERENCE THERETO IN MY PLENARY STATEMENT. JOHNSON

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